

The Easley Messenger.

J. R. HAGOOD, Editor.

EASLEY, S. C., DEC. 14, 1883.

VALEDICTORY.

On the 6th day of last September a small sheet, 6x9 inches was issued from the Job Office of T. K. Hudgens & Bro. This little paper met with such favor that its publishers, with J. R. Hagood, W. W. Robinson, Jr., and the writer, were encouraged to commence the publication of THE EASLEY MESSENGER in its present form. The first issue appeared October the 12th. Since that time its success has been equal to our most sanguine expectations. The enterprising merchants of our growing town have supported it liberally by advertising in its columns and there are comparatively few homes either in the town or the vicinity, where it is not a weekly visitor. It also receives a liberal patronage from the county. I refer, with pleasure, to its success at home, because the favor that any enterprise receives at home is a good index to its merit.

Other interests render it necessary that I sever my connection with the paper, but in doing so it has my best wishes and I heartily commend it to the public, trusting it will receive a liberal support, and become a power in building up and advancing the educational and material interests of our Piedmont region. With this issue Mr. J. R. Hagood becomes sole Editor and Proprietor.

A. W. HUDGENS.

UPON assuming the entire charge over THE MESSENGER, we declare no pains shall be spared in making it an interesting journal to all its readers. It is a youthful enterprise, but has met with much favor. Our subscription list is gradually increasing, and soon we hope to find THE MESSENGER making its ingress into many more households. As heretofore, it shall have for its object the upbuilding of the moral and material interests of our town and County. It has labored earnestly for Easley and its educational interests, and with what zeal we are blessed we shall continue to bring them before the public mind. It will give to its readers the political news of both the State and the Union, and will gladly lend its efforts to the maintaining of a good and an honest Government.

It is the only paper in Pickens County established on the line of a rail-road, and as fresh news makes

its appearance in our midst it shall find its place in the columns of THE MESSENGER. Let all give the enterprise their best wishes and patronage, and let it be a permanency in our midst.

J. R. HAGOOD.

WORK OF THE LEGISLATURE.

Everything seems to be in active operation at the State Capitol. The revision of the rail-road law, the formation of new counties, and the enactment of a divorce law seem to be the most important business before the House. It seems that the railroad companies are not satisfied with the effects of the Railroad law, and are working for a change to be made in it. Mr. Murray's bill before the House in substance is this: It "takes from the Railroad Commissioners the power to fix the rates to be charged for the transportation of passengers and freight, and restores this right to the companies." It wants the companies of the different roads to fix their own rates, and then submit them to the Commissioners for their correction and adoption. If the companies are not then pleased with the Commissioners' work, they want to appeal to the Supreme Court, and look there for help. It appears that the companies are anxious to make "big money" out of the people by charging higher rates than allowed by the Railroad Commission. The rates fixed by the Commission should, in our opinion, be tried a longer time. Why make a sudden change now, except in cases where there is a necessity for it? Most of the roads in the State are independent, and can secure enough capital from the present rates to run them, and make money at it too. The mass of people should not be imposed upon in order to make a comparatively small number rich. As to the Divorce Law, we deem it out of place for the Legislature to act upon it unless it should be narrow in its limits. The enactment of such a law would have a great tendency "to license crime," and dissolutions of marriages, the most sacred of ties, would doubtless be far more numerous.

GENERAL NEWS.

The Stockholders of the Columbia and Greenville Railroad Company held their annual meeting at the office of the President in the Central Bank building, Columbia, last week. All the present officers were re-elected except three Directors, Messrs. George S. Scott and Calvin Brice, of New York, and John Ferguson, of Greenville, were elected Directors, vice T. M. Logan, J. A. Rutherford and M. B. Brown. Alluding to a para-

graph to the effect that an unusually large number of tramps are moving towards Florida to spend the winter and bask in the genial and salubrious climate of the "Flowery State," the "Pensacola Advance-Gazette" says: "They make a mistake. Florida is not a healthy State for tourists without a local habitation and a name." They will find the climate several degrees too warm for them.".....The President has sent to the Senate the following nominations: Wm. D. Warner, of South Carolina, now Commercial Agent at Dusseldorf, to be Consul at that place. Beckford Mackey, of South Carolina, to be Consul at Rio Grande de Sul. Frank G. Haughwaut, of N. Y., to be Consul at Naples, vice B. O'Dell Duncan, of South Carolina, appointed Consul at Catania.....On Saturday night last, Deputy Collector Ensor captured a four-horse blockade whiskey wagon in Union county, about twenty-eight miles from Spartanburg. The parties having the wagon in their possession were in camp when arrested. The vehicle carried four barrels of brandy and a lot of chestnuts and apples.....Mrs. J. W. Koger, sister of the Rev. A. Coke Smith, of Charleston, and wife of the Rev. Mr. Koger, the Superintendent of the Missionary operations of the Methodist Episcopal Church South in Brazil, arrived in Brooklyn, N. Y., last week. She will probably be present at the meeting of the South Carolina Conference in Sumter this week.....On Saturday, George Posey, colored, was convicted at Birmingham, Ala., of criminal assault on a young white girl. He was sentenced to be hanged on January 11.....President John Taylor, the official head of the Mormon church, is preparing an elaborate statement of the political and social attitude of the Latter-day Saints, for the January number of the "North American Review.".....Further particulars of the infanticide case at Central, mentioned in another column, state that Mrs. Martha Gunthrop and her daughter Mattie, a young lady about grown, were committed to jail in Pickens on the 7th inst., on a charge of infanticide. An inquest was held over the dead body by Trial Justice Johnston, and the physicians who made the post mortem examination testify that the skull of the child was fractured, and that in their judgment the infant once breathed. The Gunthrops are considered a very good family, the father of the young lady holding a good position as bridge contractor on the Air Line Railroad, but the testimony taken at the inquest makes out a pretty strong circumstantial case against them.....On last Sunday evening Mr. James F. Pitts, of Lancaster county, was found lying dead in the public road near his home, with every indication that he had been foully dealt with. He had been in company with Thurlow Gardner, James Miller and Columbus Miller, who are reputed as being violent and rowdy and given to drinking. All were drunk and had about a gallon of wine with them when last seen. Pitts was known to have had money, at least five dollars, but none was found on his corpse. James Miller lay near him in a drunken sleep. Pitts was a peaceable, quiet man, about 25 years old, and leaves a wife and four very small children.....Fairfield county is on a solid financial basis. The county commissioners report that there is \$5,000 in the treasury.....Hon. A. P. Butler has been re-elected as Commissioner of Agriculture.....At recent Municipal elections held in Spartanburg, Marion, Allendale, Ninety-Six, Union, Greenwood, Winnsboro, Orangeburg and Blackstock, all "went dry." Greenville, Cheraw, Barnwell and Sumter, went "wet.".....Albert C. Finch, of Spartanburg county, had his arm severely mutilated in a cotton gin recently, from the effects of which he died twelve hours afterwards.

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